

[20 April, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme in 1980. Since inception, about 1.69 lakh Samman Pensions have been sanctioned and about 4.57 lakh claims have been rejected (till 31.03.2005).

This Ministry keeps on receiving complaints from various sources regarding grant of Samman pension to ineligible persons. Sometimes Courts have also ordered enquiries, and in a few cases petitioners have also filed affidavits in Courts alleging grant of Samman pension to ineligible persons.

This Ministry conducts an enquiry through the concerned State Government and/or examines its available records to ascertain whether the concerned person meets the eligibility and evidentiary requirements prescribed in the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980.

Where it is seen that any person does not fulfil the eligibility/evidentiary requirements, proceedings for cancellation of the Samman pension are initiated. The pensioner is given an opportunity of being heard, and, after considering his reply (if furnished), a final decision on cancellation is taken. Since the inception of the scheme in 1972, till 31.03.2005, about 1582 Samman pensions have been cancelled. In case the specificity of any case so merits, the pension is suspended pending the finalization of the cancellation proceeding.

Receipt of complaints, enquiries through the State Governments, examination of available records, suspension of the pension if the specificity of the case so merits and final cancellation of the pension when established that eligibility/evidentiary requirements are not fulfilled are a continuous process.

Deaths in Durgapur Steel Plant

2999. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in December, 2004 three persons succumbed to death were buried under stage in Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) whether C.I.S.F. has lodged formal complaint with State Police regarding the unnatural deaths;

(c) whether post-mortem was conducted and bodies were duly handed over to their relatives thereafter; and

(d) how the dead bodies were disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Media reports appeared on 13.12.2004 that three iron scrap thieves were buried to death in Slag Bank area of Durgapur Steel Plant.

(b) After thorough search of the area, no dead body was found and no clue of such incident came to notice. Moreover, no complaint about missing of these persons has been received from any quarter. However, following the media reports, local police has lodged an FIR and is investigating into the matter.

(c) and (d) Not Applicable.

Revamping of Civil Defence set up

3000. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in the process of revamping the existing Civil Defence set-up into disaster management taskforce in the wake of Tsunami calamity;

(b) if so, how soon the new task force is expected to be operational; and

(c) whether Government would also consider issuance of a Conscription Proclamation to be effective during national calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not proposed to revamp the existing Civil Defence set-up into disaster management taskforce in the wake of Tsunami calamity. However eight battalions of Central Para Military Forces comprising of 144 Specialist Response Teams have been earmarked to be trained, equipped and regrouped as National Disaster Response Force under Director General Civil Defence to deal with natural calamities. Training and equipping of the Specialist Response Teams for operationalization of the National Disaster Response Force has already -commenced.

(c) No, Sir.